

LITERATURE.

REVIEW OF NEW BOOKS.

From Claxton, Remsen & Haffelinger we have received the following new publications:—

"Winter Poems by Favorite American Poets," published by Fields, Osgood & Co., is a very beautiful holiday book that is worthy of the attention of book-buyers, both on account of its literary and its artistic merits. The poems are, "The Pageant," by J. G. Whittier; "The Golden Mile Stone," by H. W. Longfellow; "A Winter Piece," by W. C. Bryant; "The First Snow Fall," by J. R. Lowell; "In School Days," by J. G. Whittier; "The Snow Shower," by W. C. Bryant; "Woods in Winter," by H. W. Longfellow; "The Snow Storm," by R. W. Emerson; and "Midnight Mass for the Dying Year," by H. W. Longfellow. The illustrations are by Harry Fenn, Winslow Homer, C. C. Griswold, W. J. Hennessy, S. E. Ytinge, J. C. Homer, D. Martin, Jervis McEntee, and Alfred Fredericks. They are engraved by A. V. S. Anthony, and both as drawings and engravings they are in the highest degree creditable to the American artists, and will compare favorably with the best European book illustrations.

"Little Pussy Willow," by Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe, published by Fields, Osgood & Co., is a pleasantly written story for young people that is made additionally attractive by a number of clever illustrations and by a handsome binding that makes it an elegant gift book for the holidays.

"My Apingi Kingdom," by Paul Du Chailu, published by Harper & Brothers, is one of those lively and entertaining books of travel and adventure in the centre of Africa that those who have perused Mr. Du Chailu's former works will know how to appreciate. This book gives a great deal of interesting information on natural history subjects, and is made additionally attractive by a number of excellent illustrations.

Another work of somewhat the same description that is likely to be popular with young readers has also just been issued by Harper & Brothers. This is the "Adventures of a Young Naturalist," adapted from the French of Lucien Barthe by Parker Gillmore. It is a narrative of travel and adventure in Mexico, and it gives a better description of some of the features of that country than any work we have met with. It is written in an entertaining style, expressly for the benefit of young readers, and we heartily commend it as containing an infinite amount of instruction and amusement. The illustrations are numerous and remarkably fine.

"From Thistles—Grapes?" by Mrs. Eliot, published by Harper & Brothers, is an English society novel of average merit and interest.

"On the Trail of War," by Alexander Innes Shand, published by Harper & Brothers, is made up of a series of letters to the London Times by a correspondent who accompanied the German armies at the commencement of the present war. The work is valuable as giving the personal experiences of an eye witness to the battles and marches that inaugurated the wonderful campaign now, it is to be hoped, fast drawing to a close. Mr. Shand is a graphic writer, and the book is one that will repay perusal.

"Italian Life and Legends," by Mrs. Anna Cora Mowatt-Ritchie, published by Carleton, is a series of sketches from Italian history and impressions. Mrs. Ritchie never went very far below the surface in any of her writings, but if not profound she was graceful; and the present volume, in addition to being very readable, has an interest attached to it as the last performance of its lamented author.

"The Cloven Foot," by Orphans C. Kerr, published by Carleton, is a very dreary burlesque of Charles Dickens' unfinished novel of Edwin "Drood." It takes all kind of people to make the world, but we cannot understand the particular frame of mind that could induce an apparently sane man to perpetrate such an utterly pointless attempt at humor as the one before us.

"Dream Music," by Frederic R. Marvin, published by Carleton, is the title of a book of verses that are not unmelodious, but in which we fail to detect any very marked poetical qualities.

"The Book Above All," by the late T. H. Stockton, D. D., published by Claxton, Remsen & Haffelinger, is a series of sermons prepared by Mr. Stockton for publication a short time before his death. The leading idea is that the Bible is at once a religious, moral, and political guide, and this is developed and illustrated with all the earnestness of profound and sincere conviction. Mr. Stockton was a man of strong convictions, and if his violent antagonism to the Church of Rome and his fears of its influence becoming predominant in this country appear to many unwarranted, there is no doubt that he wrote as he thought and that his fears were intensely real. As an exposition of the author's views concerning the Bible this book will commend itself to a large circle of readers, while the pure and beautiful Christian spirit that pervades it will secure for it the regards of many who may not agree on all points with the writer.

J. B. Lippincott & Co. send us the following new books:—

"Our Poetical Favorites," by Ashael C. Kendrick, published by Sheldon & Co., is a selection from the best minor poems in the English language. The poems are nearly all modern, and the editor thereby does somewhat of an injustice to the reader, as some of the best minor poems in the language were written by Elizabethan authors. The collection is an excellent one, however, so far as it goes, and lovers of poetry will find many favorites included in it.

"We Girls," by Mrs. A. D. Whitney, published by Fields, Osgood & Co., is a more than usually pleasing home story, such as few writers could have told better than the author

"Faith Gartney's Girlhood," Mrs. Whitney's last book is one of her best, and it will undoubtedly find an extensive circle of admiring readers.

"Lost in the Fog," published by Lee & Shepard, is the third volume of the "B. O. W. C." series, by James De Mille. It is an exciting tale of adventure, such as a multitude of boys will read with eager interest.

From the American Sunday-school Union we have received the following new religious stories suitable for Sunday-school libraries:—"What Changed Guy Dennis; or, Life at School and at Home," "Days at Millgate; or, Lane Johnnie's Holiday," and "Great Things done by Little People."

T. B. Peterson & Brothers send us "The Stolen Mask" and "The Yellow Mask," a couple of the earlier works of Wilkie Collins, which are strongly marked by the peculiarities of his style.

From Turner & Co. we have received "Christmas Day: the Night Before and the Night After," a series of popular Christmas poems gotten up in holiday style.

From the Central News Company, No. 505 Chestnut street, we have received the November number of *All the Year Round* and the December number of *The Aldine Press*. This last-named publication is profusely illustrated and contains a great variety of reading matter especially adapted to the tastes of holiday readers. The typography of this publication is, as usual, remarkable for its beauty.

THE AUSTRIAN POLICY.

Count von Beust's Declaration—Austria Eager for Peace and Unprepared for War.

VIENNA, Nov. 24.—The declaration of the Vienna Government, that it will support England and Turkey, even to the most extreme measures, may have caused some surprise to the admirers of Count Beust, whose policy has hitherto been one of peace, especially in all difficulties that have at various periods threatened the stability of the Council of Europe. The well-known New Year's despatch of 1867 (in which he proposed a Congress of the signatory powers of the treaty of Paris of 1856, to consider the question whether Russia should not be released from the shackles placed upon her maritime power in the Black Sea), will not have been forgotten; and the *Journal de St. Petersburg* recently asked why Count Beust should find the revision of the treaty wrong and injurious to-day, which he considered as desirable in 1867. That proposition, however, was made at an apparently unpromising moment. The political condition of Southern Europe was then very critical; Crete stood in flames; France and England considered the proposition "monstrous," and Russia refused to take any part in the plan; and now the question is again called up, but in a more dangerous form. Count Beust takes a most decided stand-point, quite at variance with his usual peace-making policy, and feels bound to be guided in his course altogether by the interests of Turkey and England. In every question that has previously threatened to involve the Porte in war he has always been the very foremost to act the part of conciliator. We need only call to mind the kindly services of the Austrian Government in the Servian difficulties with Turkey, in preventing war between Greece and the Sublime Porte in the Cretan difficulties; and then again in smoothing away the difficulties that threatened a rupture between the Sultan and the Khedive; and why does he not now use his good services in smoothing away the present difficulties?

Count Beust has recently answered these questions himself, in a spirit corresponding to the tone adopted by the English Government. What he considered as good policy in 1867 might be so in 1870 were it adopted in a manner corresponding to the usages of civilized nations; and he complains that the rude breaking of a treaty by any one power would lead, if not to a general war, to a state of things little removed from barbarism. When he proposed a Congress in 1856, all the signatory powers were in existence; but now Russia has seized an opportunity for an illegal act, when one of the greatest powers in Europe prostrate, and the other appears to be in a mood creating suspicion as to the position which she intends to occupy. Prussia's bound, equally with France, England, Italy, and Austria, to see that the letter of the treaty is carried out, when she does not, she places herself at the side of Russia. So say the Austrian journals. And the result of this alliance or understanding between two great powers is considered dangerous to the existence of Austria; and the neutrality of Prussia should be considered as an act of hostility towards that Government. The Vienna journals, official and unofficial, speak plainly on this point, and in high diplomatic circles the view prevails universally that an understanding—not an alliance, in the exact sense of the word—was had between the Emperor of Russia and King William, at the memorable meeting of the two monarchs at Ems, just before the breaking out of the German-French conflict. This agreement was that Prussia should be left a free hand with France, and permitted the unmoistened annexation of Alsace and Lorraine, and, in return, Russia should be at liberty to open up the Eastern question to her own satisfaction. This is notwithstanding the fact that Otto von Bismarck was convinced in Versailles that no "alliance" exists between the two powers, is firmly held in Vienna in official quarters. And the tone of total indifference to Russia's action, as exhibited in the Prussian press, helps to strengthen this view.

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